

**Feast fit for Soldiers**

Fort Riley cooks show culinary talents they hope will win at the Army contest Feb. 28 through March 12.

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Fort Riley Post

Oz finds a home in Kansas

Quicker than clicking their heels together, fans of the "Wizard of Oz" can step into a world of movie, book and product memorabilia.

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February 27, 2004

America's Warfighting Center

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Iraq draw depletes BDU supplies in PX

By Judd Antley
AAFES

DALLAS -- Fort Riley's Military Clothing Sales Store and others in the Army and Air Force Exchange Service are out of stock on selected sizes of

Enhanced Hot Weather and Temperate Battle Dress Uniform coats and trousers. Exchanges have the items backordered from the military supply system which provides the items, but Rick Talbot, manager of the Fort Riley Post Exchange estimates the local shortages will continue through the summer.

Talbot said the AAFES military clothing merchandise manager is in constant contact with Defense Supply Center Philadelphia to ensure Fort Riley receives its allocations as soon as they become available. Dave Lumbley, military clothing divisional merchandise manager for AAFES,

said it may be as late as August before the temperate BDUs will be restocked. Representatives of the supply center in Philadelphia said the current shortages were caused by a switch in allocation of BDU production from woodland to desert styles to support the increase in desert requirements as a result of the war

in Iraq. "The temperate trousers are the item in the most critical position, and while DSCP does not expect to get well until August, we will experience a significant increase in deliveries starting in April,"

See BDUs, Page 2

Home -- at last

Emotions flow when Soldiers return

By Christopher Selmek
19th PAD

The first element - approximately 50 soldiers - of the 937th Engineer Group returned to Fort Riley early Feb. 21, after completing its mission in Iraq. They were greeted by friends, family and fellow Soldiers during a ceremony at Marshall Army Airfield.

The Soldiers deployed in February 2003 to support Operation Iraqi Freedom. During the first months of the war, the engineers provided combat support to the 3rd Infantry Division as the division advanced into Baghdad. During the latter half of its deployment, the 937th assessed, coordinated and developed plans for renovations of bases, garrisons and facilities for the Iraqi Army.

By summer 2004, the unit's facilities program will provide barracks, offices, support facilities and vehicle maintenance areas for dozens of Iraqi military units.

Maj. Gen. Dennis Hardy, commanding general of the 24th Infantry Division (Mech) and Fort Riley termed the mission one "that's extremely appreciated and well-accomplished," before concluding the ceremony with words each of the Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Company wanted to hear, "Rejoin your families. Dismissed."

The Soldiers wasted no time rushing into the waiting arms of their wives, children and other family members, most of whom had not seen them since the battalion left Fort Riley last year.

"His whole family is here waiting on him, and we are so proud of him," said Monica Jackson about her husband, Master Sgt. Henry Jackson Jr. "I love him;



Post/Selmek

Staff Sgt. Michell Dawson, of the 937th Engineer Battalion, grabs her husband, David, by the hand as she reunites with him after a year's deployment to Iraq.

God bless our soldiers," she said.

The 937th was one of the first units to cross the Kuwaiti border into Iraq with the 3rd Inf. Div. assault at the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"In fact, you are now veterans," Hardy said. "You have gone in harm's way, executing a mission that is vital to this nation, vital to the free world and vital to the civilized world as we know it."

"Nine-three-seven," he continued, "you can be extremely proud, just as proud as your families and as proud as the rest of us, that you have made a major contribution in a major role that you have played in this ongoing war on terrorism. It's a long way from being over."

"Nobody knows what the end looks like, but it's a fight that we have to fight without getting into the politics of it, in my mind it's always been better to take the fight to the enemy on his shores rather than doing it on our own shores," Hardy said.

"In fact, you have demonstrated the courage, valor and patriotism that is necessary to take the fight to the enemy, to the heart of darkness," Hardy said.

Although every soldier who deployed with the 937th returned uninjured, Hardy asked the gathered soldiers and family members to join him in a moment of silence to honor those who were not as fortunate.



Post/Selmek

Pfc. James Jurnerson, of the 937th Engineer Battalion, and his wife, Irena, walk off Marshall Army Airfield together after not seeing each other during Jurnerson's year-long deployment to Iraq.

"We will not forget those that have fallen; and we at Fort Riley, together with the rest of this great nation, have lost many," he said.

To the casual observer, every family member and friend who gathered to await the arrival of the Soldiers shed tears and burst with obvious emotion as the Soldiers were at least released from their formation.

Hardy summarized the thoughts of most everyone attending the ceremony: "On behalf of Fort Riley, on behalf of a grateful nation, on behalf also of the local community supporting us here this morning, welcome home."

2 more Soldiers killed in Iraq

Staff report

Two Fort Riley Soldiers died of injuries sustained from small arms fire and an improvised explosive device attack near Khalidiyah, Iraq, Feb. 19.

The soldiers were assigned to the 1st Battalion, 34th Armor, 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division. Killed were:

Second Lt. Jeffrey C. Graham, 24, of Elizabethtown, Ky., was a platoon leader for Company C. He joined the Army in May 2003 and had been stationed at Fort Riley since October 2003. Graham deployed to Iraq in November 2003.

Spec. Roger G. Ling, 20, of Douglaston, N.Y., was an armor crewman in Company C. He joined the Army in November 2001 and had been stationed at Fort Riley since May 2002. Ling deployed to Iraq in September 2003.

To date, 28 Fort Riley Soldiers have died while serving in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Access guards require right IDs

By Sam Robinson
Staff Writer

Drivers and passengers entering Fort Riley in a vehicle without a valid Department of Defense registration sticker need three things: a valid vehicle registration, proof of insurance and a photo identification card. But, not just any photo ID will be accepted.

Only a valid state driver's license will be accepted as a photo ID to issue a one-day pass to get onto Fort Riley, said David Hubbard, post physical security director. All passengers in the vehicle who are 18 or older must also show a photo ID.

No identification is required for children younger than 18, if they are a passenger in a vehicle. Hubbard encourages parents to have some sort of identification available for children even though it is not required.

People in vehicles with valid DoD registration stickers must show a driver's license or government-issued ID card when entering the post. Photo IDs from a place of employment will not be accepted, Hubbard said.

Hubbard also cautioned drivers

State shows its appreciation Day at capitol honors nation's military services

By Cassidy Hill
K-State Intern

Military personnel from different Armed Forces stationed in Kansas gathered Feb. 18, at the Statehouse in honor of Armed Forces Appreciation Day.

To show appreciation for all the Armed Forces in Kansas, Gov. Kathleen Sebelius signed a proclamation making the day official.

"...Armed Forces Appreciation Day is an opportunity for Kansans to show their appreciation for the significant social and economic impact that the military, active, reserve and National Guard has

on the state of Kansas and around the world," the proclamation read in part.

Sebelius read the proclamation that said many individuals and units based in Kansas received national and international recognition for their important contributions. Kansas' military installations are primarily comprised of Fort Riley, Fort Leavenworth, McConnell Air Force Base in Wichita and Forbes Field National Guard Complex in Topeka. Sebelius added that all military installations in Kansas employed 69,000 people and generated \$1.6 billion in payroll during fiscal year 2003.

After signing the proclamation,

Sebelius met and had her picture taken with Soldiers in the Fort Riley Honor Guard. She said this year's appreciation day takes on a new meaning because the United States is at war.

"We've had the appreciation day for years in Kansas, and I think it reflects the admiration and respect Kansans have for our Soldiers both here and abroad," she said. "We know that there are active units from each of the folks represented today who are actually overseas right now in harm's way, looking out for our interest day in and day out. It brings an important look to saying 'thank

See Capitol, Page 2



Fort Riley Soldiers, Pfc. Christopher Conner and Spc. Sebastian Parker rode their horses on the state capitol grounds in Topeka during Armed Forces Appreciation Day, Feb. 18. The Soldiers' unit was greeted by Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius during a photo taken with her on the grounds.

Post/Skidmore



Post/Staffmore
Pfc. Christopher Conner, Fort Riley Honor Guard, met Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius during Armed Forces Appreciation Day, Feb. 21. Conner and the other members of the Honor Guard greeted visitors and legislators at the capitol and represented Fort Riley during a proclamation signing.

BDUs

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said Jim Kane, product manager for battledress uniforms in DSCP's clothing and textile directorate.

"We have recently released all backorders for enhanced hot weather coats and trousers. These assets should be reaching the stores soon, and DSCP expects to remain in sustained supply for the enhanced hot weather items," he said.

DSCP and the Defense Logistics Agency annually buys about \$10.4 billion worth of food, clothing, textiles, medicines, medical equipment, general and industrial supplies and services for America's warfighters worldwide, their eligible family members and other non-Defense Department customers.

The military supply system provides routine support for AAFES requirements. Recruits, units and other higher priority requirements, such as Operation Iraqi Freedom and Recruit Induction Centers, receive first priority.

The defense supply system is the only authorized BDU source for AAFES as directed by memorandums of agreement with the Department of the Army and the Department of the Air Force.

Talbot said the Fort Riley clothing sales store occasionally runs out of stock on OCE items; however, there are no long-term shortages expected at this time.

Fort Riley's PX BDU supplier is the same one that ships BDUs to the Central Issue Facility on post. In the chain of priority shipments, CIF will always come first. When their demand is satisfied, then AAFES shipments will begin to be shipped, Talbot said.

Steven Cooke, 19th PAD, contributed to this article.

Gates

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to make sure their vehicle registration is current, including decals on license plates. Vehicles with expired plates will not be allowed on post, he said.

Department of Defense decals also must be current and legible to control point guards. New decals may be obtained in the basement of building, Hubbard said.

"We need everyone's cooperation," Hubbard said. "We are trying to apply the standards for access to the post appropriately, without causing too many delays."

Capitol

continued from page 1

you."

Different Armed Forces groups set up display booths on the second floor rotunda of the Capitol to offer information about each group to anyone stopping by.

Representatives of the Association of the U.S. Army, Kansas Commission on Veteran's Affairs, McConnell Air Force Base, Kansas Air National Guard, U.S. Coast Guard, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas American Legion, Army National Guard, Pittsburg State University Army ROTC and Fort Riley handed out a variety of information.

Representatives also answered questions the public had about their units.

Jeff Levin, co-owner of Varney's Bookstore in Manhattan, was at the Statehouse for sales tax issues.

He said Armed Forces Appreciation Day is important because it recognizes the military personnel in Kansas, who have served their country and the state.

"All these people, every day, are risking their lives for us, and there is nothing greater than that. To be able to call yourself a citizen, you have to recognize the military," Levin said.

"Kansas has a strong history of supporting its military, and we have a great number of people who are employed by the military, so it's a strong job opportunity and also keeping the world safe for us," he said.

In honor of Armed Forces Appreciation Day, 24th Infantry Division (Mech) Commanding General Maj. Gen. Dennis Hardy, Chap. (Col.) Daniel Paul and Garrison Commander Col. Jay Simpson represented Fort Riley during the House and Senate sessions.

In the House session, Hardy was a VIP guest. Paul, the com-

mand chaplain, read the opening prayer. In the Senate Session, Simpson led the Pledge of Allegiance and gave opening remarks.

Hardy said the Army and Armed Forces are important for the state and the people.

"It is important because we are an Army and the armed forces of

the people, by the people and for the people," Hardy said.

Sister Carolyn Juennemann, of Morris Hill Chapel at Fort Riley, said Armed Forces Appreciation Day "is very important because a lot of people don't recognize or realize the dedication they have for our country."

Visitors say 'thanks'

By Kevin Doheny

19th PAD

Servicemembers, state legislators and other civilians gathered Feb. 18, at the state capitol in Topeka to honor America's military men and women during the governor-proclaimed Armed Forces Appreciation Day 2004.

Manning informational displays were representatives of the Air Force, Coast Guard, U.S. Army Reserve and Army National Guard.

The servicemembers spoke with legislators about an array of issues and concerns and also took time to speak with them about their service to their country.

"Everyone who stopped by and chatted with us expressed their gratitude and admiration for a job well-done in the defense of our country and its campaign to thwart terrorism

here and abroad," said Sgt. 1st Class Sheldrick McNeal, Fort Leavenworth public affairs office noncommissioned officer in charge.

Some representatives took time from their busy schedule to talk with each of the servicemembers before making their way back to their offices inside the state Capitol.

Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Robert Gipson said he appreciated the fact that people took time to look at the displays and talk with the servicemembers who manned each booth.

"Many people came through and asked a lot of questions instead of just walking by looking," Gipson said. He manned the Association of the U.S. Army booth.

"They actually took the time to stop and ask questions, and for me that shows they were interested in what we were doing," Gipson said.

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Cooks set feast

Team practices for Army's top culinary title

By Mike Heronemus
Editor

Several cooks set a medieval banquet table Feb. 20 in Bldg. 404 at Fort Riley to showcase their talents. The dress rehearsal mimicked the feast they plan to prepare during the 2004 Army Culinary Arts Contest at Fort Lee, Va., Feb. 28 through March 12.

After seeing the sculpted centerpieces and tasting samples of the food, Col. Thomas Luebker, 24th Infantry Division's assistant division commander for support, told a small crowd, "We can no longer refer to Army cooks as just cooks."

The team of eight Fort Riley cooks and a noncommissioned officer serving as team manager will compete short-handed in the team static display category and in the individual ice-carving

event. A team usually numbers 12 cooks, but Fort Riley deployments to Iraq cut the number of cooks available for the team and the post obtained special permission to enter with a smaller team. They left Fort Riley Feb. 24.

The feast's centerpiece was a flying dragon with wings spread and neck craned toward the 12-by-12 table bearing the prepared food, including several meat and vegetable dishes, corn chowder served in a bread bowl and numerous desserts.

Each entry category featured its own centerpiece. Cooks used a mixture of lard and beeswax to carve a knight's head wearing a helmet for one centerpiece. Another entry featured bread dough that resembled a sword stuck into a stone. Food in another entry was displayed around a knight's shield and mace made of bread dough. Dessert dishes surrounded a small flying dragon sculpted with marzipan.

Details play a big role in the contest, said Sgt. 1st Class Lance Anttila, the team's manager. He made the all-Army team twice

while assigned to U.S. Army Europe. New details the Fort Riley team created with bread dough for this year's entry seemed to appear almost every time a person walked around the table.

Little mice scurried between the plates of food. Dragon's eggs lay helter skelter around the table settings. Even a snake began to gorge itself on one of the mice. The more a person looked, the more details could be seen.

Luebker described Fort Riley's "Medieval Fantasy" entry as "awesome." After nearly 30 years in the Army and assignments in five divisions, Luebker said he knew a lot about food in the Army. "I am honored to see how far the Army has come with its culinary arts," he said.

Entries in the annual Army

See Feast, Page 4



Post/Heronemus

The Fort Riley team created this flying salt dough dragon emerging from a wishing well with wings that spread about 30 inches on either side.



Post/Heronemus

Kimberlee Quiles (left) and Carmen Lawrence (holding Quiles' son, Anthony) look at the dessert table which had a marzipan dragon centerpiece. Quiles' husband fashioned the centerpiece for the Fort Riley entry.



Post/Heronemus

This knight's head made of lard and bee's wax served as one centerpiece for Fort Riley's culinary arts entries.



Sgt. 1st Class Lance Anttila (right) team manager, explains the team's presentation concept to Col. Thomas Luebker, 24th Infantry Division assistant division commander for support, during the team's dress rehearsal in Bldg. 404 Feb. 20.

Post/Heronemus

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Commentary

Black History Month has lessons for all Americans to learn

By Kevin B. Stuart

Irwin Army Hospital

"There is nothing new in the world, except the history you do not know."

— Harry S. Truman

Try to imagine how much history we do not know. For every star in the universe there has lived a person on Earth. That's about 100 billion stars and people.

History is written by the apparent powerful who have held sway over the countless powerless. It is their story that history tells, but perhaps no longer.

Fortunately, as we live and learn, historians are searching the past human experience and shin-

ing a light for all to see. This is especially significant in our land of immigrants.

Black History Month - February — is a time to discover and appreciate traditions and facets of a heritage that have made our nation a richer place to live.

Black History Month is a time to learn about people who helped shape the United States as a nation and learn about people who have been left out of the spotlight of history for too long — people such as:

Anthony Johnson, who formed one of the first independent black communities in Virginia in 1651;

A Revolutionary War Soldier named Prince Whipple, who crossed the Delaware River with George Washington and his

troops;

Deborah Gannet, a woman who disguised herself as a man and served with distinction in the 4th Massachusetts Regiment during a war that assisted in the birth of the United States;

Benjamin Banneker, an inventor who assisted in the planning and development of Washington, D.C.;

Constance Baker Motley, who participated as a lawyer in the landmark Brown vs. Board of Education desegregation case and later became the first Black female federal judge;

Reverend Alice Henderson, who became the first female chaplain in the Armed Forces.

Even after the United States became a land in which slavery

was abolished, great numbers of African Americans were ignored by history's spotlight; but that, too, has changed.

Black Americans in our history have made the most of the way things were and operated within the parameters of life as it was then.

I think Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said it best when he said, "Judge a person by the contents of their character, not by the color of their skin, that people should be judged for their worth and dignity as an individual."

I look at it this way: if you do good, something good will come back to you. Because of what Black Americans did in the past, their children are reaping the benefits.

I remember the words of a famous Black ballplayer when told he was ahead of his time. He replied, "I was right on time, the rest of the country is catching up."

And thus, it is with learning an old history that is new to us, a history from which all people can learn and celebrate.

The contributions African Americans have made to our society are, in many ways, greatly responsible for the centuries of success we have experienced as a country.

African Americans have made great contributions in the defense and growth of our nation, serving with pride, dedication and patriotism from the colonial period to present.

African Americans have served

with great valor in every major conflict and war in the history of America.

African-American/Black History Month is a time to honor military and civilian Black Americans.

While we celebrate Black History Month, let's remember that February is meant to be just a beginning for our education in the appreciation of black history.

Take advantage of the opportunity this month and explore the numerous contributions and accomplishments Black Americans have made to the United States.

Visit your community or post library for more information about Black History Month 2004.

Military communication can confuse acronym-challenged

By Mike Sykes

K-State Intern

The NCOIC wants you to bring an extra set of BDUs to PT. Simple enough instructions - for a Soldier. For civilians not accustomed to military jargon, acronyms can seem like a foreign language.

With hundreds of acronyms in use throughout the military, navigating the maze of their meaning can be a dizzying prospect for civilians living in Manhattan, Junction City or other nearby towns, especially if they associated with Soldiers frequently.

Rachel Martin, 21, a senior at



Mike Sykes

Kansas State University, guessed PT might stand for Private Training, as if all that physical training was intended only for privates.

When the privates are done, Martin guessed they would clean up and put on their Big Dark Uniforms (BDUs).

Perhaps after PT, the privates will have to head over to CQ, which, according to Adam

Clampitt, would be the Colonel's Quarters — an odd place for privates to be.

Despite the difficulty some people face trying to decipher military jargon, there are benefits to using so many acronyms. Drawing on her medical background, Tracy Paine of Manhattan pointed out that having so many acronyms just makes it much easier to communicate in fast-paced technical fields.

Paine said, "It just makes you feel like community. You feel like an insider, almost like speaking in code."

Paine's knowledge of technical language in other fields also made apparent the dual meanings

acronyms could have, such as BDU, which to her means Burn Duration Unit.

It's not just those who have no contact with the military though that have trouble understanding what Soldiers are talking about. Christopher McMahon, a 12-year-old from Topeka whose father is in the Kansas National Guard, said he often has trouble understanding what his dad is talking about.

"I know my dad is an NCO, and I know that we sometimes shop at the PX, but I don't know what either of those stand for," he said, underscoring the difficulty even those living with Soldiers have understanding the abbreviat-

ed language.

Even though they might not understand what many of the military acronyms stand for, everyone interviewed said they understand why acronyms are needed.

"The military aren't the only ones using them," Clampitt said, "but if I was in combat, I know that I would want to be able to communicate in the fastest way possible and that acronyms would be the best way to do that."

Paine agreed, "I'm sure if they made a military version of ER, then it would be just as hard for non-military (viewers) to understand" some of the dialogue, he said.

What do they mean?

BDU -- Battle Dress Uniform

NCO -- Noncommissioned Officer

NCOIC -- Noncommissioned Officer in Charge

PT -- Physical Training

CQ -- Charge of Quarters

PX -- Post Exchange

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Reservists

continued from page 4

tary policemen. This presented "a problem in tactical techniques," said Aper, who was in charge of Gate 1 instruction.

One example Aper gave was the difference between military police and tactical cordon and search. "An MP unit will knock on a door [during the cordon and search], whereas an infantry unit will kick the door down."

Soldiers trained for three days at Gate 2 to validate their skills in base defenses, urban operations and convoy operations. "Gate 2 is great training. The base defense is their first opportunity to get in a tactical environment," said Capt. David Tiedt of the 75th Div. (TS).

The trainers placed special emphasis on convoy operations. Lessons learned from Iraq had confirmed that combat service support units presented a soft target. The task force trained the Soldiers to be aggressive when fired upon.

Capt. Stephen Cupp and Sgt. 1st Class Todd Monson of the 75th Div. (TS), were observer controller instructors on the convoy operations. Cupp and Monson rode beside the convoy, which could take up to four hours in the nearly knee-deep snow-covered tank trails.

The convoy route was littered with Improvised Explosive Devices simulating those commonly found in Iraq. The convoy commander was graded on his reaction to the IEDs based on the lessons learned in Iraq.

The convoy was subjected to sniper fire and ambushes.



75th Division
Master Sgt. Cecilia Lynch (right), of the 75th Division (Training Support), instructs an Army reserve Soldier where to place a wounded civilian portrayed by Capt. Craig Hickerson during mobilization training at Fort Riley.

Gate 3 training consisted of all the training the Soldiers had done during the previous seven days.

The Soldiers went through an exercise with live ammunition in order to provide a realistic environment. They practiced shooting at targets and providing fire suppression while traveling in a convoy.

The stress of the long days and cold temperatures were hard on the mobilizing Soldiers. "We put the Soldiers under a lot of stress, trying to replicate a combat the-

ater utilizing the convoys, urban operations, base defense, and using an aggressive opposing force," Ryberg said.

Sgt. 1st Class Chad Craft, 1140th Engineer Battalion, said the 75th Div. (TS) was making sure that the individual soldier skills were getting done.

Iron Tax Center helps Soldiers file income tax returns from Iraq

By Shauna McRoberts

1st AD

BAGHDAD, Iraq -- The 1st Armored Division opened a tax center Feb. 4 in the Iraqi combat zone to help Soldiers serving there meet tax filing requirements.

The Iron Tax Center operates on the second floor of the Hotel California building at Baghdad International Airport. Tax advisers are also located with 1st, 2nd and 3rd Brigade Combat Teams, the Division Artillery Combat Team and the Division Support Command.

Although the Iron Tax Center is primarily for 1st Armored Div. and units supporting the division, all Soldiers may use its services.

Soldiers will find doing their taxes at the tax center quite simple, said Capt. Ty

McDonald, officer in charge of the center, because everything is done electronically.

For most single Soldiers, only a myPay pin number or their W-2 form and bank account information is needed to file.

Married Soldiers need those items and a power of attorney from their spouse. Spouses should visit their legal assistance office to have a power of attorney prepared and faxed or e-mailed to the tax center in Iraq.

Sometimes additional paperwork is needed, McDonald said. That paperwork may include the social security numbers of any children, 1099 forms, documentation if a Soldier has earned more than \$200 in interest on a savings account, or any student loan paperwork.

The Iron Tax Center is open

from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Iraq time (5 p.m. to 3 a.m. Fort Riley time).

McDonald cautioned Soldiers that 15 states do not have an extension period for deployed Soldiers filing past the tax due date of April 15.

"I think it's important for Soldiers to take care of their taxes here," said Spc. Seliman Corder, a food service specialist with 55th Personnel Service Battalion in Iraq. "It's one less thing you have to worry about while you continue to fulfill your mission."

Once taxes have been filed, refunds from federal returns usually take about 10 days and state returns take about two weeks, McDonald said.

McDonald said the average refund Soldiers in Iraq are getting is \$1,215, but he has seen a Soldier receive more than \$6,000.

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Fort Riley Community

February 27, 2004

America's Warfighting Center

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Community news briefly

Chaplains, PWOC plan conference

The command chaplain's office and Protestant Women of the Chapel will sponsor a "Wives of Warriors" conference from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. March 6, at Morris Hill Chapel.

The day-long retreat will include inspiring talks, stories and teachings that will encourage and equip the military wife and mother as she faces the many challenges of Army life.

For more information, call Don Ericson at 239-0979.

Classes to cover Army life, benefits

Free training about pertinent military matters and benefits will be offered for family members from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. March 5, at the Armed Services YMCA, 111 E. 16th St. in Junction City. Free childcare and transportation is available for those who register in advance.

Topics include military terms, acronyms, customs and courtesies; the chain of command and the chain of concern; an introduction to military and civilian community resources; and benefits, entitlements and compensation.

To register, call 239-9435.

Schools want notice of absences

Unified School District No. 475 requests that families with school-age children notify the teacher and principal as soon as possible of plans for an extended absence to accompany a military sponsor on deployment-related block leave. A two-week notice will allow teachers time to advise parents on how to proceed so that their children can successfully complete school requirements for the current school year.

AFIB offers class to benefit families

The Army Family Team Building office at the Soldier and Family Support Center has scheduled classes March 3 that may benefit Army families at Fort Riley. Classes will be taught from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the center, building 7264, on Custer Hill.

Topics will cover management skills, including conflict management and group conflict management.

For more information or to register for the classes, call 239-9435.

ARC babysitting class to be offered

Fort Riley children ages 11 and older may enroll in a Red Cross babysitting class scheduled for March 6 in building 5800. Cost for the class is \$10.

Participants who are 12 years old or older and complete the class can be listed on the Fort Riley Teen Babysitter Referral List, with the permission of their parents.

For more information, call Central Enrollment Registry at 239-4847.

Stay In Step with Fort Riley

See what's happening on Fort Riley. Check out cable Channel 2 every day at 6:30 a.m., 8 a.m., noon, 6 p.m. and 10 p.m.

FRMS student wins spelling bee

By Robyn Haynes
K-State Intern

Just days after his 14th birthday, Fort Riley Middle School's

newest county spelling bee champion is still grinning from ear to ear.

DeMarcus Hagewood, an eighth-grade student, won the 2004 Geary County Spelling Bee

on Feb. 13 at Junction City Middle School.

Hagewood beat out 58 other students to win the single-elimination competition. The spelling bee ended when Hagewood cor-

rectly spelled "escalate."

"I was nervous when it came down to myself and one other person," Hagewood said.

Hagewood and 19 other Fort Riley Middle School students

practiced for weeks in preparation for the spelling bee. They rehearsed with a microphone, trying to create the environment they

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Giving for 50 years



Mrs. Otis S. Moreman, president of the Fort Riley Officers' Wives' Club, presents a donation to Col. Joy R. Bogue, chairman of the YAC, in December 1955.



A happy bidder returns to her table after buying a basket during one of the fund-raising auctions conducted by the Officers' and Civilians' Spouses' Club.

Club members work to improve 'life of Riley'

By Mike Heronemus
Editor

Members of the Fort Riley Officers' and Civilians' Spouses' Club celebrate 50 years of improving life on the post during a grand celebration beginning at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 27, at the U.S. Cavalry Museum.

The anniversary observance includes a wine tasting hosted by Wildewood Cellars of Manhattan, a visual presentation of the club's history, presentation of a plaque from the Ronald McDonald House — one of the organizations supported by club donations — and a ribbon cutting to formally open The Shoppe in its new location at the museum.

The club formed in 1953 as the Officers' Wives' Club, an official private organization with membership made up of wives of officers assigned to Fort Riley. A couple of years ago the club reorganized to become the Officers' and Civilians' Spouses' Club to include spouses of some civilian employees working at Fort Riley.

Club President Lori Perry said about 150 members belong to the current club. Membership is vol-

untary, although at one time all officers' wives were required to belong.

The club counts more than 10,000 members during its 50-year history of providing social activities and fund-raising events to improve life at Fort Riley and to help civilian organizations, such as the Ronald McDonald House, that Soldier families can use.

During its 50-year existence, the club has contributed about \$500,000 to worthwhile organizations and activities on post and in surrounding civilian communities.

Some beneficiaries include the Food Pantry of Geary County, Geary County Unified School District 475 schools at Fort Riley, the Open Door Shelter in Junction City, the Mother's Outreach Program at Irwin Army Community Hospital and the Konza Prairie Quilters.

Konza Prairie Quilters make quilts for police officers to give women or children who are victims of abuse whenever they must move victims from the home.

Monthly club meetings are

See 50 years, Page 8



Several members of the Fort Riley Officers' Wives' Club make dolls to sell during their Christmas bazaar in 1967.



A customer looks over merchandise at a vendor's table during a recent spring bazaar.

OCSC

Club officers

Honorary president: Diane Hardy
Adviser: Missy McPhee
President: Lori Perry
1st VP: Stacy Veneziano
2nd VP: Sheri Weber
Recording Secretary: Susan Hofmann
Corresponding Secretary: Lynn Schwartz
Treasurer: Vicki Jurgensmeier

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Shopper Managers: Beth Kramer and Mindy Geary
Shopper Bookkeeper: Kellie Benson
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Publicity: Tina Locklear
Plain Talk: Christina Humphreys, Chrissy Prybyla
Historian: Kristin Spurlock
Assistance: Meegen McClure
Retiree Rep.: Jackie Burgoon

Christian concert, lecture series kicks off

By Steven Cooke
19th PAD

Christian country singer Susie Luchsinger performed at Morris Hill Chapel on Fort Riley Feb. 20 in the first of a Christian concert and seminar series.

"We're doing the series to help Soldiers realize being spiritual is not a problem," said Chap. (Lt. Col.) Daniel McClure, demobilization chaplain, U.S. Army Gar-

rison. "We hope Soldiers take back the role of spiritual leader in their home. Particularly male Soldiers."

Luchsinger sang numerous Christian songs, including "Amazing Grace," "How Great Thou Art," and "All to Jesus." She also sang classic pop songs like "How Sweet It Is (To Be Loved by You)" and "You've Got a Friend." Luchsinger explained that while these were originally

recorded as love songs, she feels they can apply to her relationship with Jesus Christ.

Between songs Luchsinger gave personal testimonies about the positive impact Christianity has had on her life, particularly in her marriage of 22 years that was sometimes fraught with trouble.

Luchsinger used audience participation to get a few laughs and, at one point in her performance, she picked five men from the audience to be her backup singers

for "Jesus is a Mighty Good Friend."

She taught the men the words to the chorus and a dance to go along with it. The crowd laughed and clapped all throughout the performance. The men themselves were all smiles.

Luchsinger's husband, Paul, was also part of the show. He worked the soundboard controlling the music and microphone levels then gave his personal testimony about how Christianity

helped him make the necessary changes to be a better Christian, husband and father.

"It was good. I really enjoyed it," said Gail Hayes, a military spouse. "It was inspiring when they spoke about how long they've been together and going through their trials and tribulations. My husband and I are going through [our own situation] with him being deployed and having a

See Concert, Page 8





50 years

continued from page 7

usually devoted to collections for some charity organization, Perry said. January's meeting collected 364 pounds of food for the Food Pantry. A facial tissue drive at the beginning of the school year resulted in more than 600 boxes of tissue being divided among schools on post.

In October the club conducted a drive that collected more than 65 winter coats for adults and children, plus hats, scarves and mittens that were given to the Open Door, Perry said.

The club raises money in several ways. For the past 20 years it has operated The Shoppe, a gift shop that sells consigned items created by military spouses and several local crafters. Items include soaps, candles, art, canned jellies, woodcrafts, quilted and embroidered items, dried flower arrangements and even some antiques.

Each spring the club sponsors a bazaar that brings many crafters and vendors to a hangar at Marshall Army Airfield.

This past fall the club joined forces with the Enlisted Spouses' Club to sponsor a bazaar that

Membership

Open to male and female spouses and family members of active duty officers, reserve officers and retirees and Department of the Army civilian employees in grade GS-9 or above or comparable grades for nonappropriated fund employees.

Membership fee is \$15 per year, which includes a monthly newsletter and membership card that offers the bearer some discounts at some Junction City and Manhattan businesses.

For more information, call Erin Ramsey at 784-8184.

raised money for the combined scholarship fund. The club also sponsors a fall basket auction to raise money.

In the past, social activities for

club members were more varied than they are today. The club even operated an activities center in Bldg. 2252 for a period of time. Activities included Slimnastics, Bridge, Ma Jhong, ballroom dancing, a charm school, ceramics, a book club, parenting classes and sewing classes.

The club also organized weekly bowling and a golf club for its members.

Today, some of those activities are offered by other organizations on post, such as the arts and crafts center, King Field House and Custer Hill Golf Course.

The club's bowling team still competes weekly in league play at Custer Hill Lanes, and the club offers games on the second Monday of each month.

Today, like it has for the past 50 years, the Officers' and Civilians' Spouses' Club is devoted to providing social opportunities for its members and to financially support the local community and scholarship funds as well as providing thousands of hours of volunteer service to organizations at Fort Riley and in nearby communities.



Post/Haynes

Fort Riley Middle School eighth-grader DeMarcus Hagewood holds the plaque he won for being this year's Geary County Spelling Bee champion.

Speller

continued from page 7

would experience at the Geary County Spelling Bee.

"The school gives a spelling test to all students, and the top 20 become a part of the spelling team that represents us at the county competition," said Terry Heina, Fort Riley Middle School assistant principal.

"I was very excited, but I also couldn't believe that I actually won," Hagewood said. "When I misspelled the word 'salivate,' I got really nervous."

Hagewood smiled as he remembered how it felt when the hour-and-a-half-long contest ended with him in the winner's circle.

"I finally did it," Hagewood said. "It feels really good to know that I can accomplish something like this."

Fort Riley Middle School has produced the Geary County Spelling Bee champion five of the past six years.

Hagewood is preparing to compete for the state spelling bee champion title in Topeka on March 27.

Armed with practice words and some recently gained confidence, Hagewood will represent Geary County and Fort Riley in the state spelling bee.

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Concert

continued from page 7



Post/Cook

Susie Luchsinger, a Christian country artist and co-founder of Psalm Ministries, performs a concert of Christian country music Feb. 20 at Morris Hill Chapel.

pre-teen that really needs him."

"They were very good at ministering to everyone," said Debbie Tinsley, wife of a deployed Soldier. "It applied to everyone, not just married people."

Tinsley's daughter, Trisha, said she too was moved by the testimonies.

"It opened my eyes on how to be more aware of how I present myself as a Christian," she said.

McClure said it is the Luchsinger's story that makes them appealing to him. "What I like about the Susie and Paul story is it is a true story," McClure said.

The next morning the Luchsingers led a marriage enrichment seminar at Morris Hill Chapel.

Many of the seminar's attendees had also attended the previous night's concert. Again, they said they enjoyed what the Luchsingers had to say.

"I thought it was awesome," said Debbie Tinsley. "It applied to all relationships as Soldiers and wives of Soldiers and how we can help each other."

Staff Sgt. John Gunther, of the 6025th Garrison Support Unit, said the idea of having a (personal) de-militarized zone really stood out to him.

"The idea of having a de-militarized zone — a mutual zone where you and your wife agree never to fight; it makes sense — especially the bedroom, because it's a sanctuary, a personal and intimate place," he said.

The next concert and lecture series is planned for April 16, when Tim Kaufmann will perform conservative contemporary music and April 17, when he will lead a man's seminar.

For more information, call the installation chaplain's office at 239-3359.

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Fort Riley Sports

February 27, 2004

America's Warfighting Center

Page 9

Sports news briefly

Troopers split games on the road

Fort Riley Middle School Troopers split their basketball games in Wamego Feb. 21.

The C team lost to Marysville 30-26 but avenged an early season loss to Clay Center by defeating them 43-42 in overtime.

High scorers in the Marysville game were Jason Chun with 11, including three 3-pointers, and Cariem Browne with 7.

High scorers against Clay Center were Ralph Topps and Cariem Browne with 14 each. Chun added nine more.

Brothers still eye boxing spots

TUNICA, Miss. (Army News Service) -- The Joseph brothers kept the Army's Olympic boxing dream alive in the 2004 U.S. Olympic

Boxing Team Trials at Battle Arena in Tunica, Miss., Feb. 17-21.

Clarence Joseph advanced to the U.S. Olympic Team Box-Offs by winning the challengers' bracket of the 165-pound division. Joseph, 21, a member of the U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program at Fort Carson,

Colo., must defeat Trials champion Andre Dirrell twice Feb. 27-28 at Cleveland to win a spot on the U.S. Olympic Boxing Team.

Edward Joseph, 24, also remains in contention for a spot on Team USA. Because of an administrative fiasco in the 152-pound welterweight division at Tunica, he and three other boxers will resume their Trials Feb. 26 in Cleveland.

Edward will meet Austin Trout of Las Cruces, N.M., in the challengers' bracket. Edward is one loss away from being eliminated and four victories shy of earning a spot on the Olympic team.

A fatigued Clarence, who boxed gamely with a battered right arm, barely advanced to Cleveland. He rallied in the fourth and final round to a 12-12 tie with Joe Greene of Queens, N.Y., and won the bout 63-51 on a tiebreaker.

Belnavis breaks NASCAR barrier

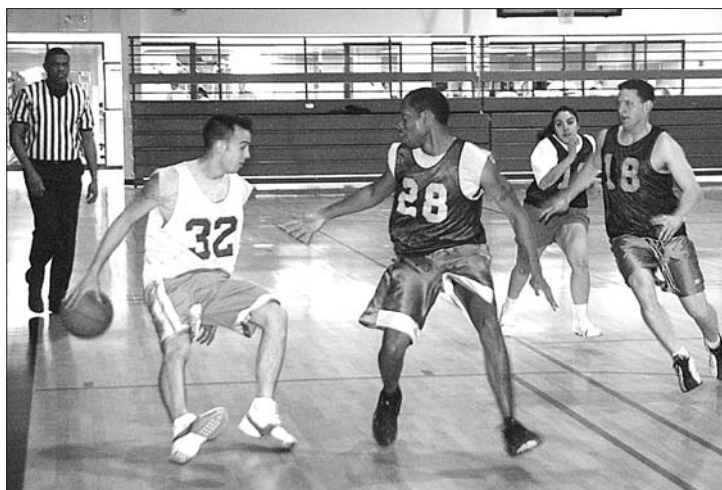
WASHINGTON (Army News Service) -- In 1959, Sam Belnavis vividly remembers sitting in a college psychology class in which the professor lectured on the inferiority of the Negro brain.

More than four decades later, Belnavis is still proving that professor wrong.

His most recent success was his ground-breaking entry into NASCAR as its first African-American team owner, currently overseeing the business of racing the No. 16 National Guard car driven by Greg Biffle, who finished 13th in the Daytona 500 Feb. 15.

He also owns two trucks that raced two days prior in the Florida Dodge Dealers 250 that placed first and eighth, with drivers Carl Edwards and Jon Wood, respectively.

Ghostriders No.1



Shane Towns (32), of 101st Forward Support Battalion, pulls up while dribbling downcourt Feb. 25 in King Field House as Medical Department Activity's Darrell Hoosier (28) and Steve Ford (18) move in to defend.

Post-season play begins March 2

By Jason Shepherd
19th PAD

The 2004 Fort Riley Company Level Basketball regular season is over, but the fun is just beginning for the 14 teams in competition.

Playoffs start March 2 and Headquarters Company, 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized), is the No. 1 seed during the single-elimination tournament that runs through March 9 at King Field House.

"It feels good to be the No. 1 seed, but that means we are going to have to play harder in the post-season tournament," said Troy Moshier, HHC, 24th Inf. Div., guard. "Everyone will be out to get us. We just have to stay focused, play hard and show them why we are at the top."

HHC, 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry Regiment, won the second with a big 50-40 win Feb. 25 against Touch of Grey.

Barry Sunstrom, intramural coordinator for Fort Riley sports, said that he looks forward to great playoff action. He added that everyone should come out and root their company on.

"For one thing, it's the cheap-

est form of entertainment in town," he said. "Also, the teams appreciate it and probably play a little harder when they have a



Darrell Hoosier (28) and Steven Ford (18) of the Medical Department Activity team double up on 101st Forward Support Battalion's Kory Brown (32) at King Field House Feb. 25 to close the regular season play of company level basketball.

Post/Cooke

few of their fans rooting for them. It's good for the unit esprit de corps when the commander of a unit gets involved in playing with his or her team, or better yet when they play on the team. That usually brings more fans out to watch."

Sunstrom added that the regular season went pretty well, but the talent pool was a little thin because of recent deployments of units on Fort Riley.

"With fewer teams, we don't seem to have the quality of players across the board that we are used to seeing," he said. "That's not to say we don't have some very talented individuals playing. It's just that some teams that appeared to be very good wouldn't have had the success that they have had this season if more of our units had been here to play."

For Moshier and the Ghostriders of HHC, 24th Inf. Div., this was a roller coaster season.

"I felt we had a good season," he said. "I only say good because of the one loss that we had. The highs, of course, were the wins we had against the other top-ranked teams." He

See Post-season, Page 10

KSU fouls offense effort

Colorado wins despite KSU's ace, Massey

By Sam Robinson
Staff Writer

Kansas State University out-shot the Colorado Buffaloes from the field and on the line at their Feb. 21 match-up in Bramlage Coliseum. The Wildcats also had the game's top scorer, Jeremiah Massey.

Despite the percentages, however, the Buffs improved their standings in the win column, beating the Cats 72 to 62.

Massey, the Wildcat's junior forward, posted 23 points, shooting 77 percent for the night. Massey also managed to nab 11 rebounds, putting him at the top in that column as well.

One statistic that was uncomfortably high for Wildcat Head Coach Jim Wooldridge was personal fouls. Wooldridge was visibly upset at the end of the game when the Cats posted six fouls in the final 2 1/2 minutes, giving up

See Wildcats, Page 10

NASCAR fits Army lifestyle

Nemechek vows to put No. 01 in victory lane

By Lorie Jewell
Army News Service

DAYTONA, Fla. — As the Army enters its second year of NASCAR sponsorship, Soldiers — both longtime racing fans and rookie observers — are saluting the multimillion-dollar partnership.

The relationship was born of a desire to pump up recruiting efforts, officials have said. But as the bond continues to gel, some are taking note of the underlying similarities between the lives of racecar drivers and Soldiers.

Joe Nemechek, who drives the Army's black and gold No. 01 Chevy, feels a kinship with the men and women in uniform.

"We're gone a lot for a big part of the year. It's tough being away from your family," Nemechek said, adding that he also relates to the danger factor and the tragic consequences serving in harm's way can bring. His younger brother, John, was killed in a 1997 racing accident.

"I know what it's like to lose someone," Nemechek said. "It makes you appreciate every day you have with people you love."

Nemechek spent time with injured Soldiers at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in December. The visit left him with an even deeper sense of pride in representing the Army — and a strong desire to give Soldiers team they can be proud of in return.

See NASCAR, Page 11

Geese honking signals spring migration

By Carla Hurlbert
Fish and Wildlife Biologist

Spring waterfowl migration is on and Fort Riley residents will undoubtedly see and hear flocks of Canada geese and other migratory waterfowl flying overhead. Many of the rivers, streams and ponds will have plenty of waterfowl on the water or ice searching for food or resting.

Canada geese nest in Alaska and northern Canada and migrate to the southern United States for the winter. Many Canada geese have become permanent residents in recent years. These are non-migratory birds which nest throughout the United States. Fort

On the Wildside: News About Nature



Carla Hurlbert

The birds are gray-brown to dark brown on the back and wings and white on the belly. The legs are

Riley has some permanent resident Canada geese that stay year-round.

The Canada goose is easily recognized by its black head, bill and neck with a white chin strap.

Canada geese are vegetarian and eat aquatic plants such as grass, roots and young sprouts. They also eat grain and corn from agricultural areas.

They live in and around bodies of water including ponds, rivers, streams and lake shores. They've become quite a common sight in city and state parks. Some areas are having trouble with overpopulation of the geese and, for this reason, officials there are trying to discourage people from feeding them.

Canada geese are monogamous, meaning that pairs mate for life. When a female picks a nesting site, she looks for a place that has good visibility but is still isolated for protection. The area must have open water with low banks so she can have access to aquatic plants. Places such as swamps

See Wildside, Page 11





Post-season continued from page 9

deemed loss against Company B, 1st Bn., 41st Inf. as one of the lows.

With the regular season over and the playoffs on the horizon, teams are looking to make something happen.

"Playoffs are when we look to bring our game out," said guard Michael Williamson, HHC, 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor Regiment. "It's taken us a couple of games to get on the same page, but we'll be ready come playoff time."

Sunstrom said that it was amazing that no one was seriously hurt during the entire basketball

season.

"I think that the fact that we didn't have any major injuries was the greatest accomplishment of the season," he said. "Anytime you are involved in a sporting activity, there is always the potential for injuries. Our hope is that they are kept to a minimum in number and seriousness."

Sunstrom added that the season went well for the most part and he looks forward to more teams making it back for next year's company level regular season.

"We will run next year's basketball program very similar to

this year's program," he said. "We hope to have more troops back so we can have more than one league again. Also we would like to see enough interest from the females and the over-30 players to again have leagues for them."

"I believe, as a rule, the regular season went well," he said. "I thought overall the officials did a good job. For the most part, the teams were there to play ball, get some exercise and have some fun. If anyone was playing for any other reason, they were missing the boat. This is recreation basketball at its best."



Post/Robinson
Kansas State Coach Jim Wooldridge appears astounded by a foul called during the game against Colorado.

Wildcats continued from page 9

eight points.

The Buffs recovered from missed shots by grabbing 20 offensive rebounds.

"We couldn't rebound the basketball. They had 20 offensive rebounds, and we weren't able to get out and get anything in the open court," Wooldridge said.

"In the first half, we had very little offense in the paint to keep Colorado from collapsing and bal-

ance our scoring."

Colorado matched their offensive recoveries with 20 defensive rebounds.

The Buffs set the Cats on the back burner several times throughout the game.

On three occasions the Buffs shut the Cats' scoring down for three- or four-minute stretches.

"We never got into a rhythm, and we never got into a flow,"

Wooldridge said.

"We never really got two or three possessions in a row where we could build some confidence and cut into their lead in the second half," he said.

The loss drops Kansas State to 4-8 in Big 12 play and 12-11 overall.

"We just have to learn from this," Massey said. "Take it and get better."

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Wildside continued from page 9

marshes, meadows and lakes are among some of the best nesting areas.

The female builds her nest with weeds, twigs, grass, moss or pine needles. Once the eggs are laid, the nest is lined with feathers and down to insulate the eggs against extreme warmth as well as cold, stabilizing egg temperature. Canada geese typically nest on the ground on islands and shorelines.

Usually four to seven white eggs are laid and incubated by the female while the male stands guard a short distance away. Incubation lasts about 28 days. Hatching occurs from April through June, with the peak occurring the first week of May. Nesting success and gosling survival are generally high. Most nest losses are

caused by flooding, desertion, and predation. Egg predators include raccoons, foxes, coyotes, dogs and gulls.

Young goslings may be preyed upon by snapping turtles, gulls, owls, bald eagles, falcons and coyotes.

After the goslings have hatched, the family moves away from the nesting site on foot



Canada Goose

toward more favorable feeding areas. The newly hatched goslings are able to swim immediately. The male and female parents accompany the babies during their swims. Goslings can dive and swim underwater, and they eat almost continuously to attain growth for their first migration flight.

Five weeks after the goslings hatch, the female begins molting. The male begins right after mating. During this time, the adults are unable to fly. The goslings are ready to learn to fly at nine weeks old, when the adults have regrown their flight feathers and are ready to fly.

In autumn, as soon as the young are strong enough for the trip, they begin their migration

south. Flocks of geese travel in long lines, flying in "V" formations. Their loud honking can be heard for miles. The goslings learn the migration routes from their parents.

Although an increasing number of Canada geese are choosing to winter in Canada, the majority fly south to the United States and even to Mexico.

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NASCAR continued from page 9

"The one thing I want to do is get this Army Chevy in victory lane," Nemechek said. "That's for the Soldiers who serve."

The Daytona 500 drew an estimated 180,000 fans to the first race of the Nextel Cup 2004 series at the Daytona Speedway in Florida Feb. 15. It was Spc. Russell Burnham's first NASCAR experience. He described himself as a fan in the development stage. But despite his rookie fan status, Burnham has already picked up on the commonalities between racing and the Army.

"It's all about the team," Burnham said. "Even though the driver is the guy out front, there's a whole team that supports what he does."

NASCAR races are fertile ground for recruitment possibilities, many believe. Pvt. Christo-

pher Conner, a special forces Soldier who serves with the 3rd Battalion, 20th Infantry Division, of the Florida National Guard, has been a NASCAR fan for more than a decade.

"This is one of the best forms of recruiting they could have," Conner said. "A lot of young teens love NASCAR."

Those teens may be too young to join the Army now, but Sgt. 1st Class Rodney Hoerter of the U.S. Army Mobile Exhibit Company has no doubt their interest now will pay enlistment dividends later.

"It's all about planting seeds," said Hoerter, who runs the marksmanship exhibit.

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Travel & Fun

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America's Warfighting Center

February 27, 2004

Leisuretime ideas

Locally:

"Beyond Therapy" -- Feb. 27-28 -- Kansas State University theater department presents Christopher Durang's comedy about two neurotics who find each other through personal ads and two bizarre, self-absorbed psychiatrists who are themselves "beyond therapy," 8 p.m. showtime at Nichols Theatre on the KSU campus; tickets cost \$10.50 for the public and \$6.50 for students and senior citizens; for tickets, call the McCain Auditorium box office from noon to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday at 532-6428.

KSU hosts first comedy fest

MANHATTAN -- Feb. 27, 7 p.m., McCain Auditorium; featuring comedians Jim Gaffigan, Robert Kelly and Darrell Joyce; tickets can be bought at McCain Auditorium box office weekdays from noon to 5 p.m. for \$7.50 to K-State students and \$10.50 to the general public for \$10.50. For more ticket information, contact the McCain box office at 532-6428.

At the movies ...

The Barlow Theater doors open at 6:30 p.m.; shows begin at 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$3 for adults, \$1.50 for children 11 and younger. Children younger than 5 are admitted free except during children's matinees or expected sellouts.

Feb. 27 -- Along Came Polly (PG-13)

Feb. 28 -- Big Fish (PG-13)

Feb. 29 -- Along Came Polly (PG-13)

March 4 -- Big Fish (PG-13)

March 5 -- Cold Mountain (R)

March 6 -- My Baby's Daddy (PG-13)

March 7 -- Cold Mountain (R)

'I think we're in Kansas, Toto.'

Special to the Post

WAMEGO — "There's no place like home. There's no place like home."

Who hasn't clicked their heels just like Dorothy Gale in "The Wizard of Oz" movie in the hope of being transported back to a place where colorful dreams come true? Well, neither a wizard or ruby slippers are required to visit the wonderful world of Oz.

A short drive to Wamego, located 70 miles west of Kansas City near Interstate 70, and the new Oz Museum, is all that's needed to visit Dorothy, Toto and all the characters and wonders of the world-wide phenomenon that's Oz.

The newly opened Oz Museum, 511 Lincoln, houses one of the largest private collections of Oz memorabilia in the world. The collection belongs to Wamego native Tod Machin and consists of more than 2,000 items from the 1939 MGM-released "The Wizard of Oz" movie starring Judy Garland and the worldwide appeal of Frank L. Baum's classic children's story.

Open the door of the remodeled 1880s mercantile building to find the

main street of town and walk into the Gale family farmyard. Then, step through the front door of Dorothy's sepia-toned house and into the technicolor world of Oz and the museum that consists of four galleries, eight alcoves and 20 display cabinets. Each is filled with books, toys, photographs, pages from scripts, posters, clothing and a sequin from Dorothy's original pair of ruby slippers.

Other displays contain limited edition Oz dolls, the dress Diana Ross wore in "The Wiz," a number of products inspired by Oz and its characters and Wizard of Oz books from around the world, including Japan, Spain and Russia.

According to museum curator Jim Ginavan, there's something for everyone at the museum. "I hope people find it's not just about the movie," Ginavan said.

Wamego's connection to the Oz story doesn't end at the museum. In many ways, Oz begins just down the street at the Columbian Theatre. The historic theatre at 521 Lincoln houses several murals from the 1893 Columbian Exposition and World's Fair. The fair was referred to as the "White City" and, with its elaborate walkways and ornate exhibits, became the inspiration for Baum's creation of the Emerald City of Oz.



The Cowardly Lion went to the Wizard of Oz to find some courage.



The Scarecrow thought he didn't have any brains.



Dorothy holds Toto tightly in this exhibit at the Oz Museum in Wamego, a short drive from Fort Riley.

Oz Museum

If you go:

The Oz Museum (shown at left) is located in the heart of downtown Wamego at 511 Lincoln and is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday noon to 5 p.m. Admission is \$7 for age 13 and up, \$4 for age 4-12, and those under 3 are free. For more information, call (866) 458-TOTO.



Post seeks entries for arts, crafts contest

By Christopher Selmek
19th PAD

The Fort Riley Arts and Crafts Center is hosting the local level of the annual Army Arts and Crafts Contest now through April 14.

Submissions are grouped into 11 categories of ceramics, wood, fibers and textiles, glass, metals and jewelry, three-dimensional mixed media, drawings, prints, water base painting, oil base

painting and two-dimensional mixed media.

The contest is further broken down into categories depending on whether the entrant is a novice or accomplished artist, according to Marilyn Paras, lead art specialist at the Arts and Crafts Center.

Entry forms are available at the Arts and Crafts Center to all active and reserve military, family members and Department of Defense civilians.

"An accomplished artist is an

individual who has gained skills and knowledge through formal courses leading to credit in college or art schools or has received awards in professional competitions," Paras said.

Each entrant may enter up to five works per category.

"Anything worked on from 2002 to now will be accepted," Paras said.

"You don't have to have worked on it at this Arts and Crafts Center either. You could have done it at any other installa-

tion, as long as you haven't already submitted it."

A panel of local experts will judge the entries. In the past, judges consisted of professional artists and craftsmen, though the specific members have yet to be determined for this year's competition.

"I am not the judge, so I'm able to become as involved as I want if anybody needs assistance or guidance," Paras said. "Formalized training isn't available for some

of the categories, but I have taken classes on each of the categories and will be available for critique."

First, second and third places and honorable mentions for each category will advance to the northwest regional contest. Winners there advance to the Army-wide competition in May.

"The last contest we hosted, which was two years ago because of the FORSCOM reorganization, had 20 to 25 people entering a total of 30 to 40 projects," Paras

said. "We have winners every year, for every level of the competition. One year we had five projects that won awards in the final competition."

Paras said woodworking, fibers and textiles, watercolor and stained glass are most popular entries by members of the Fort Riley community.

The Arts and Crafts building is free, open to the public and contains facilities for assistance in any desired category.

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